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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

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WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.
Barometer 29.79.

August 8, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 79 2 p.m. 84
Humidity " 89 " 73

August 9, 1916. Temperature 6 a.m. 82 2 p.m. 88
Humidity " 89 " 88

7729 日二廿月六

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1917.

四拜禮 九月八英港香

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS,
\$36 PER ANNUM.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

Two More Towns Evacuated.

London, August 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, the Novoborovka says the Russians have evacuated the towns of Kamenskopolodsk and Prokhorff.

The Enemy's Object.

London, August 8.
The Times correspondent at the Headquarters of the Russian Seventh Army, writing on August 2, says that the immediate objective of the enemy is apparently a bold attempt to cut off the troops remaining in the Carpathians and Rumania; hence they are striking between Kamenskopolodsk and Czernowitz, where the Russians are unable to continue the advance. General Korniloff, interviewed, said that the second phase of the war was only just beginning. It was impossible for Russia to conclude a separate peace, which would convert her into a German Colony. The new Government must invite the Allies to re-organise the railways for warfare, and Anglo-French officers must help in the drilling of the ten million Russians who had enrolled but who were imperfectly trained.

German Claims.

London, August 8.
A German official wireless message states:—The Austro-Hungarians stormed and occupied several summits in the wooded Carpathians. We extended our successes to the north of Focani after bitter fighting. The Russo-Rumanian counter-attacks proved futile.

Russians Resume Offensive.

London, August 8.
A Russian official wireless message states:—In the region of the confluence of the Zbrucz we took the offensive and captured the villages of Barychkovoy and Wygoda, as well as heights to the west of the last-named. We took 300 prisoners. We repulsed attacks to the north-west of the Sereth. The enemy occupied two heights to the west of Dzakoni and south-west of Sotchi. We retired eastward on both sides of the Kimpoling road. The enemy pressed us back to the north of Bielzetschi.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

The New Government Meets.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says that at the first meeting of the new Government, V. Kereny, who presided, said that attention must be concentrated on national defence and organisation at the rear.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

Another British Raid.

London, August 8.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We raided last night near Lombardzyde. The enemy's artillery is active east and north of Ypres, particularly in the neighbourhood of Westhoek and the Ypres-Staden Railway.

Marked Artillery Activity.

London, August 8.
A French communique states:—There was most marked reciprocal artillery activity last evening on most of the Aisne front. Our fire repulsed enemy detachments attempting to approach our lines to the east of Vaux Aillon and west of the Calveria plateau.

Germans Admit Strong Allied Attacks.

London, August 8.
A German official wireless message states:—The English, after dramatic advances from Nieuport to the north and north-east, but were driven back after hand-to-hand fighting. We repulsed strong enemy attacks in the neighbourhood of Bixchoote and penetrated Bois des Carrières.

British Aerial Bombing.

London, August 8.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—In heavy rain, the French gained ground north-west of Bixchoote. We repulsed raiders north of Boez in the neighbourhood of Oppv. There is great activity by the enemy artillery east of Ypres. Despite the weather, our aeroplanes bombed an ammunition depot and also rail-tracks and sidings, as well as trains, forty miles behind the German lines. There was much damage and a derailed train blew up. Another British aeroplane is missing.

Artillery Actions.

London, August 8.
A French communique states:—There are some fairly violent artillery actions in the region of Pantheon, right of the Meuse, Carrières Wood and Druumont.

THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

What Will British Labour Do?

London, August 8.
The greatest interest is being taken in the National Labour Conference, to take place on August 10, which is to decide whether delegates will be sent to Stockholm. Opinion in the party is sharply divided, and important preliminary meetings have been necessary in order to reach decisions regarding the course to be adopted by the representative bodies attending the Conference. It is stated that the Miners' Federation will hear a personal explanation by Mr. Arthur Henderson before deciding how its 600,000 votes are cast. The division of opinion is reflected in the Press, one section denouncing the idea of British intercourse with enemy Socialists during the war, and the other section dwelling on the danger of estranging Russia if the delegates do not go, pointing out that in such an event the impressionable Russians would be an easy prey to the German Socialists.

THE IRISH CONVENTION.

London, August 8.
The Press Bureau says that at the Irish Convention to-day Sir Horace Plunkett suggested a procedure whereby the existing schemes of the Government of Ireland be examined and presented for the Convention's consideration. The Convention decided to appoint a committee to consult the Chairman regarding general

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LIBERATION OF SERBIA.

Britain to Stand Firm to the End.

London, August 8.
Mr. Lloyd George, speaking at the Serbian Society luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, said:—We owe more to M. Pasich, the Serbian Premier, and M. Venizelos than we can possibly reveal at present. Serbia, which has been covered by the dirt of Turkish barbarism, is about to be cleansed and will yet appear fresh and wonderful. The first condition of peace is complete restoration without reservation, however long the war may last. British honour is involved in seeing that Serbia is freed. Serbia and Belgium are the guardians of the gates, and bravely have they defended them. The Serbian troops, although overwhelmed, have never been disheartened and are still guarding the gate. We extend again the hand of friendship to Serbia. We will go through the war together to the end.

In the course of a speech, Lord Robert Cecil declared that he was convinced that there was no inconsistency between the aims of Italy and Serbia.

M. Pasich, whom Lord Robert Cecil described as the Grand Old Man of Serbia, after expressing his thanks for what Britain had done for small nations, said that Germany now spoke of an honourable peace. Such a peace could only be secured if the peoples under Austro-German rule were set free. If France gets back Alsace-Lorraine, if the Italians accomplish a unity with their still unredeemed brethren, if the unity of the Serbs, Croats and Slovines is achieved, if the Czechs and Slovaks are united and independent, and if the Polish and Rumanian questions are solved, then only will an honourable peace be secured.—(Chorus.)

GERMAN SOCIALISTS' DEMAND.

A Popular Government Wanted.

London, August 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, it is reported that Herr Scheidemann, in a speech to a meeting of six thousand people at Mannheim, demanded, in the interests of peace, a speedy substitution for the present Government of a Government really representing the people's will.

GERMANY'S LATEST ENEMY.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Washington says that Liberia has declared war on Germany.

GERMAN AIRMAN CAUGHT.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Flushing says that a German aeroplane visited a Dutch fishing boat. One airman came aboard and ordered the boat to Zebrugge, but a Dutch patrol boat came up and took the vessel to Flushing. The German airman has been interned.

GREEK PARLIAMENT MEETS.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Athens states that at the first sitting of the Venizelist Parliament of May 31, 1915, M. Venizelos, replying to a petition by the Deputies of Northern Epirus for admission into the Chamber, said that the union of Epirus and the Motherland in the near future was a foregone conclusion.

SIR ALFRED KEOGH RESIGNS.

London, August 8.
The Daily News says that Surgeon General Sir Alfred Keogh has resigned in consequence of attacks on the Army Medical Service, of which he was Director.

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

London, August 8.
It is stated that a nine-penny loaf will be able to be purchased from August 15.

A THOUSAND AEROPLANES ANNUALLY.

London, August 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at New York, the Government has ordered the construction of an aircraft factory at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia. The cost will be a million dollars, it is to be completed in a hundred days, and is to employ two thousand workers. It is expected to produce a thousand small aeroplanes annually.

CONTROL OF U.S. EXPORTS.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at New York states that the Exports Council recommends that lumber, sugar and cotton should be placed on the list for good, for which export licenses are required. It desires especially to control shipments of cotton, of which Germany is in desperate need.

NEW ZEALAND'S DETERMINATION.

London, August 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Wellington, Parliament has passed a resolution to carry on the war until Germany is vanquished. It paid a tribute to the gallantry and courage of New Zealanders fighting. The members sang the National Anthem.

FRESH TROUBLES IN SPAIN.

London, August 8.
There is a recurrence of trouble in Spain. It is reported that there has been a railway strike, regarding which the Council of Ministers considered measures to prevent an interruption of traffic and sabotage. The Council also agreed to re-establish the press censorship.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

SOLDIERS AND POLITICS.

Regulations to be Strictly Enforced.

London, August 8.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson stated that the War Cabinet had decided that Paragraph 451 of the King's Regulations, forbidding soldiers to participate in politics, should be strictly and impartially enforced, and that soldiers should not be permitted to join Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils.

ITALIAN SHIPPING RETURNS.

London, August 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Rome states that for the week ending August 5 the arrivals of vessels numbered 487 and the sailings 412. The sinkings were two steamers and one small sailing vessel.

BIG HOUSING SCHEME AT HOME.

London, August 8.
A Departmental Committee appointed by the Government is meeting to-morrow to consider the provision on an extensive scale of houses for the working classes. The Committee on Labour Problems after the War reported that a million houses, costing £250,000,000, must be built. The Local Government Board admits that the present shortage is at least half-a-million houses. A notable instance is the immediate need for housing for 100,000 workers at Glasgow, Rosyth and Dundee. It is certain that in the near future the Government will have approved of schemes for the building of at least half-a-million houses within the first year or two after the war. It has already promised considerable financial assistance also to ensure that the rentals shall not exceed the pre-war basis.

A WEEK OF SUBMARINISM.

London, August 8.
The Admiralty announces that the arrivals of vessels for the past week totalled 2,673 and the sailings 2,798. Twenty-one vessels over and under 1,600 tons were sunk. Thirteen were unsuccessfully attacked.

SERIOUS STRIKES IN AUSTRALIA.

London, August 7.
Twenty thousand railwaymen and tramwaymen in New South Wales have struck, objecting to the new system of supervision. They have rejected the Government's offer of a conference in connection with the matter provided work be resumed immediately. The south coast collieries have been rendered idle owing to lack of transport. The Government has intimated to the strikers that they will lose their seniority unless they re-sume work by Friday, when the public will be asked to volunteer assistance. Melbourne tramwaymen and two thousand railwaymen in Queensland have also struck, the latter demanding a retrospective increase of pay.

KING ALFONSO'S THOUGHT FOR THE WOUNDED.

London, August 8.
It is understood that the suggestion that Spanish officers should be present on hospital ships emanated from King Alfonso, who, throughout the war, has been conspicuously solicitous for the wounded.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

ARE HONOURS PURCHASED?

London, Aug. 7.
In the House of Lords, Lord Selborne drew attention to the wide belief that honours are sometimes awarded unjustifiably and suggested that whenever an honour is conferred on anyone except Royalty, members of the naval, military and civil services, reasons for them should be attached; and, secondly, that the Prime Minister should assure the Sovereign that no payment or expectation of payment was in any way associated with the recommendation. Lord Selborne said that both political parties were tarred with the same brush.

It was admitted that some of the recent honours had given rise to strong exception but the suggestion was impracticable. Lord Curzon said honours had been much democratised recently and this was one of the best safeguards against abuse. The discussion then dropped.

RUSSIAN CABINET RECONSTRUCTION.

Petrograd, Aug. 8.
It is noteworthy that all five parties, including the Cadets, who participated in the Conference of August 3 and who passed a vote of confidence in M. Kereny, are included in the National Cabinet. The following are the outstanding appointments. M. Savinkov, Assistant War Minister, was prominent at the front in promoting the offensive and in combating the demoralisation of the army. M. Lebedev, Assistant Minister of Marine, was a lieutenant in the French army with previous experience in the Ministry of Marine. M. Nekrasov and M. Tereshchenko are the only two, excepting M. Kereny, who belonged to the original Provisional Government. The former was for nine years on the Duma Budget Committee. M. Tereshchenko declined office but promised the Cabinet all assistance. M. Avakentsev, the Minister of the Interior, is the President of the Peasants' Delegates. The Cabinet includes four Cadets.

ENSURING BRITAIN'S FOOD SUPPLY.

London, Aug. 7.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Prothero stated that about 1,000,000 acres had been added to the land under oats and potatoes. Assuming that 6,000,000, there were under essential grains, sufficient tonnage had been agreed to bring to Britain the entire supply of last year's American cotton. This meant security for manufacturing materials to the value of £22,000,000 annually, and between £4,000,000 and £7,000,000 for special requirements.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service To The "Telegraph.")

A GENERAL'S DEATH.

London, August 7.
The death is announced of Major General Sir George Pretyman, K.O.M.G.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, August 3.
Silver is quoted at 41½d; continental buying; Indian bear covering. The market is steady.

GERMAN ACTIVITY IN MEXICO.

Attempts to Stop Campaign for Break with the Central Powers.

Mexico City, June 22.—Every possible pressure, including financial offers, is reported to have been brought to bear by Germans and pro-Germans to stop the campaign of El Universal for the severance of relations between Mexico and Germany. The campaign continues to be the main topic of conversation here. El Universal says editorially to-day that in the flood of comment which is stand has evoked no paper or person has taken a pro-German stand or proposed that Mexico ally herself with the Central Powers.

The editorial declares that the opinions of intellectual leaders were chosen to give point to the paper's campaign, as government officials, from the nature of their positions, could say nothing and politicians always played safe, while it was the purpose of the paper to give expression to the opinion of the real thinking people of Mexico.

The discussion of the campaign has brought a renewal of charges that pro-German papers are being indirectly aided in their campaign against the United States by free print paper supplied by firms in the United States. It is known that 400 rolls of paper were shipped by the steamer Monterey from a New York firm to Vera Cruz in April. It is charged that La Opinion, of Vera Cruz, was a forced part of this shipment free if it would take a pro-German stand. The paper refused and the shipment reached Mexico City.

Other papers here have repeatedly charged that the 400 rolls were given free to pro-German papers in the capital. Telegraphic news, written with the obvious purpose of misrepresenting the United States, comes from New York, and apparently has no difficulty in passing the censor.

Chicago Churches as Recruiting Stations.

Twenty-five Chicago churches were opened as recruiting stations for the regular army early this month. They fly the American flag and the recruiting flag just as regular recruiting stations do to aid in raising the 70,000 volunteers called for by President Wilson.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema graph—9.15 p.m.

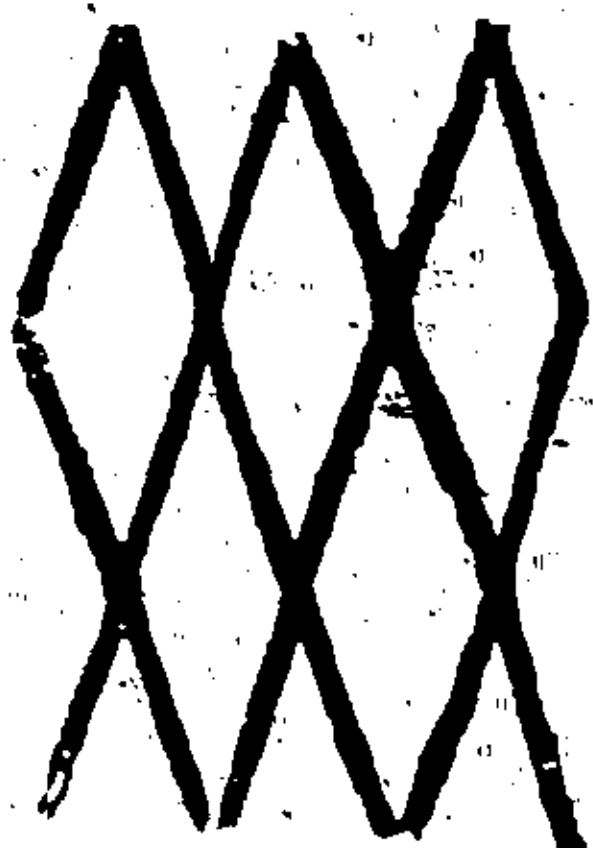
TO-MORROW.
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema graph—9.15 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 12.
Hongkong Actors' Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NOTICES.

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Oil Drilling Cables of any size up to 3,000 feet in length.
Prices, Samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application.
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DRAKENSTEIN & JAGGER CUP.
SHIPPED BY
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The Undersigned AGENTS for
these Companies are prepared to
ACCEPT RISKS against
FIRE at Current Rates.
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SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.
AGENTS.

ASTHMA CAN BE CURED.

WHEN why be half suffocated, and sit up
all night coughing and gasping for
breath when a SINGLE dose of
NOBBS' ASTHMA CURE
will give you certain, prompt relief, and
ensure a good night's rest? This, the
only genuine cure for Asthma, discovered
by Mr. NOBBS, a qualified Chemist, and
a sufferer for many years, will, if taken
when necessary, effect a radical cure of
this terrible incurable malady.
Obtainable at Messrs. A. S. WATSON
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Medicine Vendors.
Price, \$2.50 per bottle.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

PORTLAND CEMENT.
In Casks of 375 lbs. net.
In Bags of 250 lbs. net.
SHEWAN TOMES & CO.
General Managers.
Hongkong, 16th August, 1916.

LESSONS IN CHINESE.

M. S. Lo, B.A., a Chinese graduate
versed in literature, has been a teacher
in Chinese schools in Hongkong and
Canton for ten years.
He has a good knowledge of the Chinese
language and is prepared to give
lessons in Chinese to students of all
ages. He has also a good knowledge of
English and is prepared to give
lessons in English to students of all
ages. Those who wish to learn the
Chinese language are requested to write
care of "The Hongkong Telegraph" office
at No. 110 Wellington Street, First Floor.

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A first-class and up-to-date Hotel, most central location, within the vicinity of all the principal Banks. Noted for the best Food, Refreshments, Accommodation and Cleanliness. A first-class string Orchestra renders selections from 6.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Special monthly terms for residents and for Shipping People. For further particulars apply to—
J. CHARLES MORRIS, Manager.
Telephone No. 197. Telegraphic Address "COMFORT."

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CENTRAL LOCATION.
ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND LIGHTING,
TELEPHONE ON EACH FLOOR.
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J. WITCHELL, Manager.

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First class and most up-to-date Residential and Tourist Hotel. Two minutes from the Ferry. Moderate tariff and most excellent cuisine under entirely European management. Monthly and Family rates can be arranged on most reasonable terms.
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THE PREMIER HOTEL. FINEST SITUATION.
EXCELLENT CUISINE.
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(Late Grand Hotel, Southcliffe, England, and
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NOTICES.

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It is especially adapted for overcoming the undue perspiration and sensitiveness of the feet during hot weather. This powder will be found invaluable for correcting those uncomfortable conditions of the feet which arise from excessive perspiration, fatigue, burning, etc.
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NOTICES.



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Imperial Bouquet per 100	\$5.30
Crown Prince " " " " " "	4.65
" " " " " "	2.35
Extra Fine (Grand Format) " " " "	.50
Nectar " " " " " "	2.35
Yildiz " " " " " "	1.10
Club Size " " " " " "	.40
Non Plus Ultra " " " " " "	3.60
" " " " " "	1.85
Superfine " " " " " "	.75
" " " " " "	2.40
" " " " " "	1.20

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HOTEL MANSIONS.



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THE UNRIVALLED DISINFECTANT
is the result of years of experiment and scientific
research. The safest and most economical of
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STEEL, IRON, BRASS & METAL MERCHANTS.
WHOLESALE & RETAIL IRONMONGERS.
TELEPHONE 1116.

GENERAL NEWS.

An Easy-Going "Special."
A special policeman employed
to search workers for matches in
an explosives factory, was fined,
at a West Wales Court, for smok-
ing while on duty.

Escaped German Prisoners.
Two German prisoners of war,
who escaped on a recent Monday
afternoon from the Sandhoe
Military Camp, Durham, were re-
captured on the following Tues-
day night.

"Sons of the Clergy."
The annual Festival of the Sons
of the Clergy was held at St. Paul's
recently, the Lord Mayor and
Sheriff attending in state. The
Archbishop of Canterbury was
also present.

Norway's Defence Expenditure.
The Norwegian Council of State
will ask the Storting for vote of
credit of \$880,688 to cover ex-
penditure for the defence of
Norway, neutrality between
February 1 and July 30.

In Expectation of Peace.
A recent message from Batavia
to the Amsterdam Telegraph
announces that German firms
there are buying enormous sup-
plies of copra, "in expectation of
a speedy peace favourable to
Germany."

A Motor Scooter.
Frank Whiteley, a director of
Messrs. William Whiteley and
Co. (Limited), Priceless-row,
Buckingham gate, was fined £15
at West London Police Court for
exceeding the speed limit while
motoring on Sunday. It was
stated that there were 11 previous
convictions against the defendant
for similar offences.


A Railway Roll of Honour.
The 13th edition of the London,
Brighton, and South Coast Rail-
way Roll of Honour shows that
4,276 men, or 20 per cent. of the
total number employed in pre-
war days, have enlisted, of whom
238 have been killed. Distinctions
have been awarded to 14 members
of the staff, and the company
has issued an illuminated list
showing the various ribbons and
decorations.

Combining the Rejected.
Mr. Macpherson states in Parlia-
mentary Papers that he is aware
that attempts were recently made
to stir up dissatisfaction with the
administration of the Review of
Examinations Act.—In some local-
ities the percentage of "A" men
has been low. In one district,
notorious for fraudulent rejection
in the past, the percentage has
been as high as 25 per cent. on
the examinations conducted up
to June 1. All the suspected
cases were called first in that area,
and the result has been fully to
substantiate the worst fears of
the authorities. The Boards
conducting those examinations
were composed entirely of civilian
doctors, with Territorial or tem-
porarily commissioned or retired
presidents, and their work has
been reported as a model of care-
ful examination.

Aircraft and Munitions.
Mechanics in the Royal Flying
Corps, to the number of some 500
a week, are now attending special
classes arranged by the Ministry
of Munitions in 19 centres for
instruction in skilled processes of
aircraft production. The training
and supply of labour for such
work has also been extended by
the establishment of official in-
structional factories in London,
Manchester, Birmingham, and
Bristol. The results have been
markedly encouraging, and the
Air Board, for which the work is
chiefly undertaken, states that
"if it had not been for this effort
the supply of aeroplanes and aero
engines would have been very
seriously retarded, if not alto-
gether held up." This intensive
training is but part of a general
scheme of free instruction, in
munition-making undertaken by
the Ministry of Munitions in con-
junction with education authori-
ties. Sixty training schools are
now open in London and in
various provincial centres in Eng-
land and Scotland, where over
32,000 students have already
qualified for work in munition
factories. Of these a large pro-
portion are women. At several
centres discharged soldiers are
now being trained. Maintenance
is allowed to these men while
training, which in the advanced
courses may amount to £1 a week.

NOTICES.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONG KONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1917.

THE BRITISH SECOND CHAMBER.

It would appear from a report that is to hand, and which we publish in another part of this issue, that it may not be long before we find ourselves in the midst of a controversy which, previous to the war, caused very considerable and general interest. We refer to the heart-burning subject regarding the status of the House of Lords. Recently in the Upper Chamber, Lord Barnham brought the matter to the notice of his fellow-members of the "glorious Chamber," and several of the points he raised apparently met with the approval of his auditors. They also elicited a statement from Earl Carson, who, as Lord President of the Council, had the unique experience, for a Conservative member, of speaking officially for a Liberal measure, and one which at one time was viewed with extreme distaste by every good Tory and Conservative in the land. The Marquis of Crewe likewise spoke, and very appropriately so, as he was a member of the Aquinian Administration when the Parliament Bill became law. The Earl of Selborne and the Marquis of Lansdowne also expressed their views.

It will be remembered that in the preamble to the Parliament Act it is stated: "It is intended to substitute for the House of Lords, as it at present exists, a Second Chamber constituted on a popular instead of an hereditary basis." Otherwise, the measure aimed at "limiting and defining the powers of the new second Chamber." The plans of Mr. Asquith's Government for carrying out the preamble were understood to have matured, and doubtless but for the war a great deal more would have been heard of this important and controversial subject. The continuance of the war, however, has naturally caused the matter to be in abeyance, and probably the present Government will be equally as averse as its immediate predecessors to bringing forward a question which even to-day is likely to result in difficulties. Judging, however, by Lord Barnham's speech and the speeches of the other noble Lords above referred to, the House of Lords now believes the time opportune for some statement to be made, as according to Lord Barnham, "it is long overdue." The House of Lords, his Lordship pointedly observed, "was existing under the black pall of the Parliament Act." "They were," he added, "stamped with a badge of inferiority to every other second Chamber of the world." We are of opinion that no such view is widely held regarding the House of Lords, but, for all that, one can easily understand why noble Lords wish their House to bear at least as dignified a position as any other similar assembly. In the minds of all unprejudiced persons it certainly does so, as to-day it fulfils its functions as ably as might reasonably be expected, and with its wonted dignity. Of course, while the Parliament Act is still in operation—and there seems small reason for concluding that it will be repealed—the powers of the House of Lords are strictly limited, though not to the extent stated by Lord Barnham, who remarked that "there was a mark of infirmity about all their proceedings." Earl Carson, after referring to "the extreme importance of the matter," spoke of the unfulfilled pledge given by Mr. Asquith at the time of the passing of the Parliament Act, to the effect that it "ought either to be accompanied or followed at an early date by a measure of reconstitution of the House of Lords."

As we have remarked, the war is doubtless the chief reason for the matter being held so long in abeyance. It is probable, however, particularly as it has now been brought so prominently before the public eye, that it will occupy the Government's attention before long. In fact, Earl Carson stated that the Government would proceed with as much promptitude as it could, and when its proposals were further advanced the House would be entitled to a full statement. It may or may not be wise to take this statement at its face value, but whether or not the Government, in these critical days, is likely to devote much time to so controversial a subject as the status of the House of Lords, the fact remains that the Imperial Parliament would be greatly strengthened by having its Second Chamber placed on a more satisfactory footing than it has been since the passing of the Parliament Bill so very greatly curtailed its powers. As time passes, there is certain to be more need than ever for such a step to be taken, and in connection with the passage of a piece of legislation that is likely to prove of more than usual importance to the Empire, it is certainly desirable that the House of Lords, in its original capacity as a Revising Chamber, should once again have power to fulfil its functions properly.

Our Water Supply.

The abnormally wet summer which Hongkong has been experiencing has removed all possibility of a water famine, as the return just issued by the Water Authority clearly shows. Though the Kowloon reservoir had, prior to the past month, got fairly low in its contents, there is rarely, if ever, a fear of scarcity of water across the harbour. It is on this side that the danger has always been most apparent. However, even the Hongkong reservoirs are now well filled, the total storage in millions of gallons being 1,279, as against 414 a month ago. Taking the monthly consumption at the rate for July, this means that the Hongkong reservoirs have water enough to last for seven months, even if no further rain falls, whereas a month ago there was barely a three months' supply available. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Colony is at length getting the benefit of the Tyam Tuk reservoir, now partially complete. Last year this reservoir only contained 92 million gallons; at present it holds no less than 532 million gallons. The whole point on it is at present most satisfactory, and the recent rains must have relieved the minds of the authorities of a very considerable measure of anxiety.

Soldiers and Politics.

The statement made in the House of Commons, to the effect that the War Cabinet has decided that the King's Regulation forbidding soldiers to participate in politics shall be strictly and impartially enforced, and that a soldier shall not be permitted to join Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils, will meet with very general approval. The mischief that is likely to arise when soldiers take part, even indirectly, in politics, was unpleasantly exemplified during the Ulster crisis shortly before the outbreak of the war. Such a state of affairs as then arose was one that did not reflect much credit upon the officers who were foolish enough to allow their political predilections to influence their obvious duty. And as for any British soldier allowing himself to be persuaded to join so-called Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils, the idea is so preposterous that it cannot be tolerated. The only effect likely to occur as the result of such participation is that while the political situation will remain unaffected, the efficiency and the discipline of the Army is likely to be very unpleasantly impaired. All sensible persons will readily agree that the War Cabinet cannot too strongly enforce the regulation in question.

German Masses Dissatisfied.

The statement made by Herr Scheidemann, the well-known German Socialist leader, to the effect that "in the interests of peace" speedy substitution should be made for the present German Government of a Government that shall really represent the people's will, may, we believe, be taken as the first striking note of opposition to the Governmental changes that have followed the appointment of the new Chancellor. These changes are not in accordance with promises made subsequent to the recent agitation in the Reichstag, and none know better than the German Socialists, who are in close touch with the masses, how hard must be a continuance of the war for them and how inevitable such continuance is so long as the German bureaucracy persists. That in the name of six thousand people such a demand would be made so soon after the announcement of the composition of the new Government, seems to point to a more hopeful state of affairs ultimately being realised in Germany, whose people, politically, are hundreds of years behind the people of England, France, the United States, Italy, or even Russia. Germany's salvation depends upon her ability to raise a Cromwell and an army of "Ironside" to cope with the crazy dynasty that is fast destroying all that is best in her civilisation.

Big Price for Delft Ware.
An unusually fine pair of Delft ware has been realised, 1,750 guineas at Messrs. Christie's.

DAY BY DAY.

THE FITTEST PLACE WHERE MAN CAN DIE IS WHERE HE DIES FOR MAN.—M. J. Barry.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the third anniversary of France's declaration of war on Austria and of the German entry into Liege.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 3.3/16d. The closing rate will be found on Page 1.

The Council Meeting.
The meeting of the Legislative Council which was due to be held to-day, and at which the Military Service Bill would have come up for second reading, has been postponed until Thursday next.

Field Glass Fund.

Two binoculars and two telescopes from "Anonymous" are now to be added to the list of glasses received for forwarding to the Manager of the Lady Roberts' Field Glass Fund. The total now stands at:—One stand telescope, twenty hand telescopes, fifty-nine binoculars and donations of \$150.

A Clan Feud.

Mr. Mattingley appeared on behalf of two men out of three in a case of assault, before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning. Mr. Mattingley said he would have to go into the matter as the trouble had been going on for some time. He thought it was a clan feud. One man who was wanted as a witness was in hospital. A day was fixed for the hearing of the case.

Coolie's Excuse.

"These things were lying near a boiler in which I was working, and the watchman picked them up and accused me of being a thief," was the excuse put forward by a man charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing a number of tools from Taikoo Dock. A watchman said he saw defendant beat some copper piping and cut it into small pieces. The case was adjourned.

Case Withdrawn.

A European named T. Leseo, Chief Engineer of the S.S. On Lee, was charged before Mr. J. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, with assaulting a Chinese steward aboard the ship on August 2. Mr. G. R. Haywood appeared for the defence. Prosecutor said he wished to withdraw the charge, as his master had said something to him about it. Mr. Haywood said there were good reasons why the case should be withdrawn. Defendant was accordingly discharged.

IMPORTANT MANILA CASE.

The last of the cases against Percy Ferrant, former secretary, treasurer, and auditor of the Manila Electric Railroad and Light Company for alleged appropriation of large amounts of the Company's funds to his own use, ended yesterday morning (says the Manila Daily Bulletin of August 3) when Judge Simplicio del Rosario dismissed the case for estafa with falsification of a public document made out against him by the city fiscal's office. This case involved an amount of more than P11,000 which was alleged the defendant defrauded the Company of, by false representations in his notes in the Company's books of a certain payment made by the city of Manila for street-lighting for the month of November, 1915.

At the time the case for embezzlement against him, involving the sum of more than P100,000 was dismissed by Judge Harvey on the grounds of insufficient evidence, the hearing of the second case was postponed for this period of sessions, at the request of the defence. Recently, however, the attorneys for the defence filed a motion of dismissal on the grounds of twice in jeopardy, it being claimed that the amount for which he is to be tried was already included in the P100,000 which formed the basis of the complaint which had been dismissed. Considering this plea with foundation, Judge del Rosario dismissed the pending case against the accused.

MASONIC BICENTENARY.

The Record of the English Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of English Freemasons recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of its foundation. On June 24, 1717, the members of four London Lodges, three of which are still in existence, met at an alehouse in St. Paul's Church-yard, known as "The Goose and Gridiron," which has long since disappeared, for the purpose of constituting a Grand Lodge and choosing a Grand Master to be at their head.

The anniversary of the foundation of Freemasonry in England can never be celebrated, because the date of its birth is unknown. There are documents in existence which prove that Freemasonry was practised in this country at least four centuries earlier than the occasion now being celebrated. There is still preserved the original record of the initiation into the craft of St. Robert Moray, one of the founders and the first President of the Royal Society, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on May 20, 1641, and Elias Ashmole recorded in his Diary on October 16, 1648, his own initiation at Warrington; but the continuous historical narrative of Freemasonry in England may be said to date from that meeting in the alehouse in St. Paul's Churchyard.

The number of Lodges owing direct allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England has grown during these 200 years from four to 3,250. Seven hundred and fifty are known as London Lodges, meeting regularly within a 10 miles radius of Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen-street. Nearly 1,500 are Provincial Lodges under the jurisdiction of 45 Provincial Grand Masters. The remainder are for the most part overseas, under the subordination of 29 District Grand Masters.

But apart from the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, there are in all parts of the world independent Grand Lodges, which may be claimed as the offspring of that small assembly which met in a room 22ft. long by 15ft. broad—a striking contrast to the gathering to-day in the Royal Albert Hall, for which more than 10,000 applications for admission have been received. These independent Grand Lodges send representatives to the Grand Lodge of England, that body being also represented in their assemblies. Africa has a Grand Lodge at Liberia; Australia has six independent Grand Lodges; the Dominion of Canada, nine; and the West Indies, one. Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippine Islands, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland have each their Grand Lodge, which send their representatives to the English Grand Lodge. In the United States of America there are 49 Grand Lodges, and in South America seven, all in communication with the parent of all Grand Lodges, apart from the single Grand Lodges of Central America and Mexico.

There are other Grand Lodges with which inter-course is forbidden, but which nevertheless owe their birth to the parent Grand Lodge. No member of the great body of English Freemasons may hold Masonic intercourse with any Masonic organisation which does not acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being, and the present conflict has led to a severance of the Masonic relationship which, until 1914 existed between England and Germany.

The record of work accomplished by the craft during 200 years is not represented solely by growth in the number of its members, marvellous though that growth has been. The second of the three Masonic principles—namely, that of relief, is exemplified in the English Grand Lodges by the three Royal Masonic institutions for girls, boys and old people, and by the recent foundation of the Freemasons' War Hospital, which when happier times return will be transformed into the Masonic Nursing Home. Similar institutions have also been founded in connection with the sister Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, while every Grand Lodge outside the United Kingdom has its fund or institution, or both, for the

POLICE RESERVE CONCERT.

Enjoyable Function Last Evening.

At the Headquarters Club of the Police Reserve Force last night, a very enjoyable concert was given, the proceeds going to assist the finances of the Club. The concert took place in the reading room and every seat was booked. The orchestra of the Force, under Professor Gonzalez, opened the programme with the selection "Maritana" by Wallace. This being followed by Mr. A. C. Leith singing "At Dawning," for which he was heartily applauded. Miss Esther Xavier displayed wonderful technique in her piano-forte solo, Rubenstein's Etude and later in the programme contributed an equally difficult piece, Miss Elfrida O'mund (piano). Professor Gonzalez (violin) and Mr. P. A. Rosario (cello) rendered the instrumental trio Andante, Op. 49 by Mendelssohn, all the performers doing extremely well. This was one of the best things of the evening and the audience was gratified that later the trio gave "The Barcarole" from "The Tales of Hoffman." "The Lute Player" was very excellently sung by Mr. C. H. P. Hay who infused a fund of dramatic effect into this expressive little song. His rendering of "Son O'Mile" was also characterised by vigour, and the listeners were justifiably enthusiastic in their appreciations. As a pianist, Miss Elfrida O'mund is well-known to Hongkong audiences, and last evening her playing of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13 was marked by delicacy of expression and mastery of execution. The same performer assisted in acting as accompanist to the instrumental items of the programme. Professor Gonzalez proved his ability as a violinist, his rendition of Massenet's "Thais Meditation" being very fine. It should be mentioned that the orchestra also gave "Angelus" by Massenet, this pretty composition being well interpreted. Miss Robinson acted as accompanist for the vocalists.

At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. T. F. Hough, A.S.P., expressed the thanks of the audience to the performers, and hoped that the concert would be the forerunner of many others.

FANCIFUL DREAMS.

What Germany Would Like To Do.

An Amsterdam telegram which recently appeared in a Home contemporary says:—The Deutsche Korrespondenz (Berlin) publishes a collection of statements on annexation by members of the Bonn group of the All-German League. The most interesting is that of ex-Privy Councillor Trautmann, who is a professor at Bonn University, and a friend both of the Kaiser and the Crown Prince. He demands that—

Courland should be incorporated in the German Empire. So much territory must be taken from France in east and north, that the Moselle-Meuse line, with Belfort, Epinal, Toul, Verdun, and Aisne and Somme line, with St. Quentin, Amiens, and Dieppe, fall to Germany.

England must deliver up all those coasting stations we require. The English Fleet must be carried off and taken to Kiel. The Germans must occupy Portsmouth, Liverpool, Glasgow, and other English towns until England has paid her debts to us in money, land, and goods. Fantastic, it may be said; but it is what victorious Germany would do, if she did not do more.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

The idea of a "constitutional convention" is a quite familiar one in America. Not only was the Federal Constitution drawn up by such an assembly, but the several State Constitutions have been framed and amended by this method. "The Constitutions of the revolutionary period," says Lord Bryce, "were in a few instances enacted by the State Legislature, setting as a body with plenary powers, but more usually by the people acting through a convention—i.e., a body specially chosen by the voters at large for the purpose, and invested with full powers not only of drafting but of adopting the instrument of government." In later days, when a "territory" has been raised to the dignity and responsibility of a State, its Constitution has generally been drawn up by the latter method, with the exception that the result of the labours of the convention has been submitted to the electorate for adoption or rejection.

In every State it is the usual practice for a constitutional convention to be summoned at intervals of a few years either for the revision of the State Constitution as a whole or for the amendment of certain clauses in it. This body is constituted by a special popular election, and its members are ordinarily of a much higher quality than those of the Legislature. The position is attractive to the very best men in the State, and especially to its most eminent lawyers, on account of the exceptional importance of its functions. The sessions of the convention sometimes extend over several months, and when it has risen its recommendations are keenly discussed on the platform and in the press in preparation for the vote which is either to ratify or reject them. A majority of the ballots cast is usually sufficient to make the necessary constitutional change.

Both football and cricket have many followers in Italy, so it is not surprising to learn that football matches have been organised between the Italian and British artillerymen fighting together on the Austrian front. One of the largest athletic bodies in Italy has an entirely English name, "The Milan Football and Cricket Club." When this was formed a well-known writer, Signor Luciano Zucconi, raised a cry of alarm on behalf of his mother tongue. The most musical of all languages should not be debased, he thought, by the use of harsh-sounding sporting terms imported from England. Football, he maintained, is a direct descendant of the old Roman "harpastum," and as "il gioco del calcio" has been played in Italy for centuries, Cricket, too, is only a variant on the ancient pastime of "pallamaglio." Many other terms in common use, such as "match," "rush," "center," "trial," "trainer," and "pedigree," possess satisfactory Italian equivalents.

The City Temple, where a gifted American divine, Dr. Fort Newton, began his ministry on Whit Sunday, has developed into the cathedral of English Nonconformity from a very modest origin, says a correspondent. It derives spiritual descent from two clergymen who were ejected under the Act of Uniformity from the Church of St. Kitharine-by-the-Tower, and formed a congregation of Independents in a loft over the King's Weigh-house, in the City of London. The cause flourished, but dissensions arose, and two rival chapels were erected, which, after repeated migrations, are now represented by the City Temple and King's Weigh-house Church, near Grosvenor Square. The old Weigh-house Chapel had several famous pastors, the most brilliant of whom was the Rev. John Clayton, described by Robert Hall as "the most favoured man I ever saw or heard of." Clayton's election to the pastorate was unanimous with one exception—a lady who fiercely objected to his extreme youth. She wreaked a feminine revenge on her opponents, and won a Parthian victory, for she married the new pastor.

BELGIUM UNDER THE GERMAN.

Account of the Late General von Bissing's work.

A special correspondent of the New York Evening Post writes:— I have received direct and personal information, from a member of the exiled Belgian Government at Havre, of the work accomplished by Germany—and for Belgium—by Governor-General von Bissing, who has just died. For two entire years and four months he exercised absolute power in the civil administration of Belgium. His peculiar efficiency is an object-lesson in every question which Germany has raised during this war. I may be allowed to say that this account is in full agreement with the testimony from reliable private sources which I have published from time to time during his exercise of office.

It is known that von Bissing was personally and by family and education the complete type of the Prussian Junker and army officer. I am not aware that he ever propounded theories, but he was surely in practice a militarist in the extreme Prussian sense, and Pan-Germanist. He fought against France in the war of 1870, and during the siege of Paris was a captain on duty at the Palace of Saint Cloud when it was burned. The German official report persists in attributing that fire to French batteries at Mont-Valerien, which the German artillery had been unable to silence—but French military authorities have always declared this to be improbable, if not impossible. At the time, the English war correspondent, Russell, was shown about the devastated palace by Capt. von Bissing, who offered him a book from the French Emperor's library, picking it up from palace furniture lying about the lawn, and being packed up to send to Germany. The scene is worth noting as a precedent.

It will be remembered that von Bissing succeeded von der Goltz as Governor-General of "occupied" Belgium four months after the German invasion—that is, after the first acute mania of massacre and destruction had subsided. The people were still stricken with the fright which his predecessor had inspired. The new administration was to show what German authorities would do for the civil population of the country they had conquered. Von Bissing began by giving notice that he would follow in the steps of his predecessor. To foreign correspondents, and through the German press, he gave it to be understood that, by prudent and wise management, he would work for the economic revival of Belgium. To the manufacturers of Belgium, which had been perhaps the most prosperous manufacturing country in the world, he promised measures to aid them to export their products. The Allies at the same time expressed their willingness to allow and aid such exportation of Belgian products, which might have kept the country from utter disaster. Employers and workmen were alike interested in getting to work, in fulfilment of the new Governor-General's promises.

Belgian Industry Strangled. From the start, von Bissing's measures strangled Belgian industry and threw workmen into compulsory idleness. An endless, unbroken series began of requisitions and seizures. Agricultural products necessary for the health and strength of the people; raw materials which were indispensable to manufactures; goods, half-wrought and finished products; machines and tools and horses; everything which was in stock—and the very rails of tramways and railroads serving the working people—were taken away and either sent to Germany or employed for the German army front. To the end, such was the execution of Governor-General von Bissing's promises to watch—for Belgians—over the use of Belgium's riches and industrial reserves. It came to the point where nothing escaped the vigilance of an Administration which seemed to have for its special work to strip the country bare.

The new Governor-General began at once another

campaign, to compel Belgians who had taken refuge in other countries to return to their homes. The penalty was to be a fine ten times the amount of the taxes which they paid on their property. And such fines were to be collected by seizing and selling the property itself. Several examples of this came under my observation in the first months of 1915 Here at Paris, under my own apartment, two aged Belgian women had found shelter with a relative. In answer to von Bissing's imperative summons, they were forced to exhaust their scant means, and, in wintry weather, to make the long, comfortless round through Switzerland and back through Germany, with countless vexations and delays, until they reached their desolate home in Brussels. Otherwise, it would have been sold away from them with all its contents and without redress.

Third Campaign Against People. From the start, also, Governor-General von Bissing organized a third campaign against the people whom he was supposed to administer. This was a succession of war contributions, in addition to the ordinary taxes which he did not leave uncollected. Beginning with his first month in office, he assessed these war contributions to be paid by the Belgian people at 40,000,000 francs (\$8,000,000) monthly; and this levy was increased in November, 1916—two years later—to 50,000,000 francs. So enormous a sum, even considering the remains of riches in Belgium, which was perhaps the richest country in Europe relatively to its size, did not include the continual fines, ranging from tens of thousands to millions of francs which were imposed on cities and towns and the least communes for the slightest transgression against German rules and regulations—or for any upsetting of German equality. As was said in the medical English of Dr. Johnson's dictionary, Germany under this one Administration has "blooded" Belgium.

A fourth campaign of this fertile-minded administrator—if indeed it really was his own mind, and not that of some one higher up—was the attempt to divide Flemish Belgians from Walloon or French Belgians. A passing show of this effort to Germanize Belgium was the "Flemishizing" in language and staff of the University of Ghent, which has floundered in the past after adding to the gayety of the nations in a weary time. The movement has culminated in a supposed Flemish Council visiting Germany—and standing by, to the number of seven at the burial of the Governor-General who invented them.

To his fifth campaign Von Bissing worked up—or was worked up—gradually. It is the one for which he will be most remembered by the general public, judging first and foremost by feeling. It began with arrests and imprisonment of hundreds of civilians, guilty of no crime set down in any code of laws known to them. Among the most illustrious at the beginning was Madame Carton de Wiart, wife of the Belgian Minister. There were members of Parliament and of city councils, great personages like Professors Fredericq and Pirenne, of the genuine University of Ghent, and a people too numerous to mention—women as well as men, and sometimes children. Most of these were conveyed into German prisons and prison camps. There were also hundreds of executions—after trials never checked off by public knowledge. This campaign culminated for the world at large—and for all time—in the martial murder of Miss Cavell.

Deportation to Slavery. A sixth campaign was to begin in the last year of Von Bissing's life. It is the one which still most occupies the world's mind and sympathies. It is the deportation to slavery and worse of tens of thousands of Belgian men and boys—and girls—into Germany or to the fighting front. The excuse made is that they are able-bodied and out of work, and therefore as the *Schwabische Merkur* expresses the German war gospel—they ought to work for Germany. This same policy has been followed out consistently and, if possible,

with even greater rigor in the occupied provinces of invaded France. So it seems quite possible that Governor-General von Bissing was, after all, only a willing and intelligent tool of what the Germans call with reverence "higher authority." I have just learned that Mr. Brand Whitlock, American Minister on the spot, lays the chief responsibility on Hindenburg. In this war it has certainly been a policy common to all ranks of the Empire—Vas victis! In any possible negotiation of peace, it has to be considered as a deliberate attempt to crush a whole people's power to come etc., even industrially, with Germany—and this has not been considered heretofore a proper object of war by other civilized peoples.

In spite of the taciturnity of his kind, Governor-General von Bissing was not averse to formulating his ideas of Belgium, whom he pretended to rule to their own advantage. His best-known phrase can only be translated politely, "You can't clean up a Belgian." He said, in mild surprise at their city folk, "The people of Brussels are not supple enough." Again, "Flemings are less malleable even than the Walloons; they have too strong a feeling of independence." He wound up by confessing: "A Belgian is a psychological riddle." He said openly to the American correspondent, Raymond Swing: "Belgians have to be ruled with an iron hand; they don't recognise the greatness of the work Germans have done!"

There is no injustice in supposing that the real sentiments of the man were expressed in his declaration to the German troops under his command before he was appointed to govern Belgium: "When civilians dare to shoot at you, the innocent must be killed with the guilty. German authority has more than once said that human lives must not be spared in repressing such acts. And while it is to be regretted that flourishing villages and even whole cities should be destroyed, we must now allow ourselves to be turned aside by feelings of misplaced pity."

"All of them together are not worth the life of one German soldier!"

For Belgians' Own Interest.

With such principles, one can go far; and Germans in Belgium have not been backward. As late as April 10 of this year, Governor-General von Bissing signed an order that individuals tampering with telegraphs should be shot—or, if not caught, their communes should be punished "by most vigorous measures" in place of the individual. This was all "for the Belgians' own interest." In his last days, he cited the deportations, at which the whole world stands aghast, as a benefit of German administration. In April, 1915, (*Suedische Menat shäfte*) his son had already explained that the burning of Louvain was good for Belgians, because it saved doing the same thing to Brussels!

Governor-General von Bissing reverted in his old age to his practice as a captain when young—a practice which seems to be part and parcel of his national military training. In 1916, he made a valuable present to the Museum of Munster, in Prussia. It was an historic rifle which was also a work of art from its ivory inscriptions. His adjutant had "taken" it—that is to speak mildly, annexed it—from the private family treasures of the Prince of Crov Solrain in Belgium, chateau of Rosoux. During his first year as Governor-General of Belgium, the Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger* (October 14, 1915) certified to von Bissing's humanity: "He has prohibited the caging of blind birds."

Sinn Feiners Riot.

The Sinn Feiners who have held several demonstrations since the release of the persons arrested at the time of the uprising last year brought about further disorders in Dublin on June 20. Some 600 of them carrying Sinn Fein flags attacked residences of former soldiers over which Union Jacks were flying. Windows were smashed and police who came up were stoned. Eight men and five women were arrested.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

PURE MILK

An ideal summer beverage
and
the most nutritious food.

DAIRY FARM MILK
is
SAFE MILK.

BRITISH PROPERTY IN GERMANY.

Controversy Over Gas Works in Berlin.

The dispute about the acquisition of the English Gas Works in Berlin, which arose between Berlin, its suburbs, Wilmerdorf and Schoenberg, and some rural districts on the one hand, and the rural districts of Tellow and Nieder Burnin on the other hand, is as yet undecided, says a Home paper to hand.

The *Lokalanzeiger*, which inquired of the authorities concerned regarding the matter, was informed that this English enterprise was one of the most important hostages of English capital in the hands of Germany. It was added that, while it was naturally not the intention of the Government to get the highest possible bid, on the other hand the Government did not consider it advantageous to sell the property below its value.

German capital, it was pointed out, was invested in Great Britain to a greater extent than British capital in Germany, and the Government therefore would prejudice German interests in Great Britain by allowing an unreasonably cheap sale. From Great Britain no complaints had been received of improper treatment of German property, and therefore the German Government was endeavouring to exercise similar correctness. It was further stated that no decision had as yet been come to, as estimates from other quarters put a higher value on the property than the price offered by the two groups of bidders.

RED BLOOD AND BIG MUSCLE.

The full-blooded man or woman usually has large muscles. Pale people are ordinarily thin; their muscles are small.

Muscles are red, not only because of the blood in them, but because they contain haemoglobin, the same substance that gives the red colour to the blood. And it is this haemoglobin that carries oxygen in the blood and stores it up in the muscles. Well-oxygenated blood is necessary, if we would have strong muscles; in fact, oxygen is the great supporter of life. When a set of muscles are active—for instance, those of the back when we lift something—their oxygen is used, and, unless the blood is rich and red with oxygen-bearing haemoglobin, those muscles ache.

If you are pale and your back aches, don't blame your kidneys. Try building up the blood with Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people. These pills cause an increase of haemoglobin in the blood and so enable it to carry more oxygen. There is renewed life and ambition. Everywhere that the new blood goes it carries vigour, and this tonic rebuilding treatment is the one thing that most run-down, debilitated people need.

So begin Dr. Williams' pink pills to-day; sold by all chemists, also at \$1.50 the bottle, \$8 for six, by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 96 Szechuan Road, Shanghai. The price includes postage.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on
WEDNESDAY, the 15th.
August, 1917,
commencing at 10.30 a.m.
at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street.

A Large Quantity of Valuable Household Furniture.

Comprising—
Tapestry covered drawing room suite, easy chairs, blackwood tables, flower stands, stools, teak writing tables, bookcase, engravings, ornaments, white lace curtains, carpet, rugs, electric table fans and lamps etc., etc.
Teak extension dining table and chairs, teak sideboard, dinner waggons, dinner and dessert services, electro plated ware, cutlery, glassware etc., etc.
Double cherrywood and iron bedsteads, single and double wardrobes, teak dressing tables, washstands, toilet crockery, bed spreads and sheets, etc., etc.

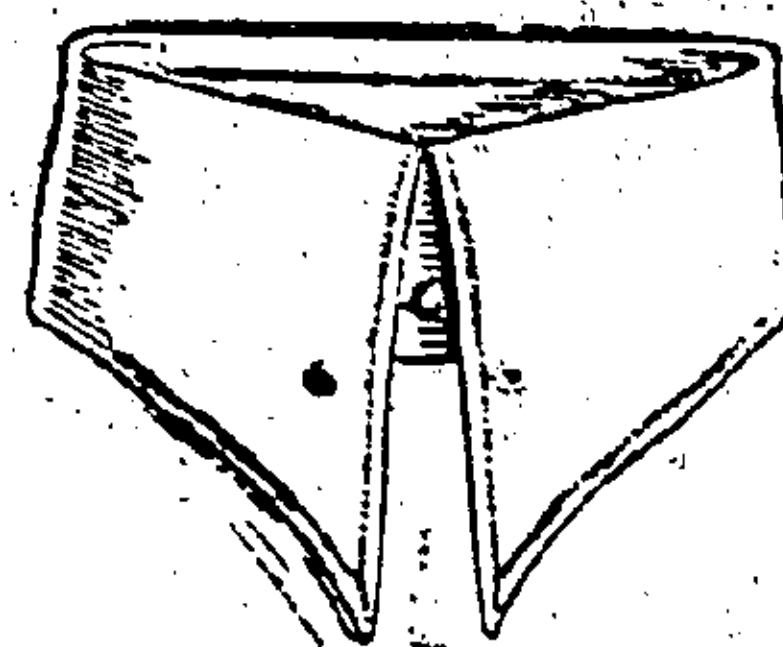
And
2 Underwood typewriters in fine condition.
1 Cottage Piano.
On view from Tuesday, the 14th, inst.
Catalogues will be issued.
Terms—Cash on delivery.
GEO. P. LAMMERT,
Auctioneer.

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NONE HAMMER HOME LIKE THE DOLLAR DIRECTORY DOES.

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is the Soft Collar, and, discerning men are selecting SUMMIT SOFT-COLLARS—the collars which combine comfort and economy with the summit distinctive style and quality. A popular shape is.

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| | Lolita | |
| 2619 | Dear Devon Lass. | Baritone. |
| | A Dinder Courtship. | |
| 2665 | Deep in My Heart. | Contralto. |
| | Loves Garden of Roses. | |
| 2579 | Until. | Tenor. |
| | The Garden of Your Heart. | |
| 2365 | The Somerset Farmer. | Baritone. |
| | Bashful Tom. | |

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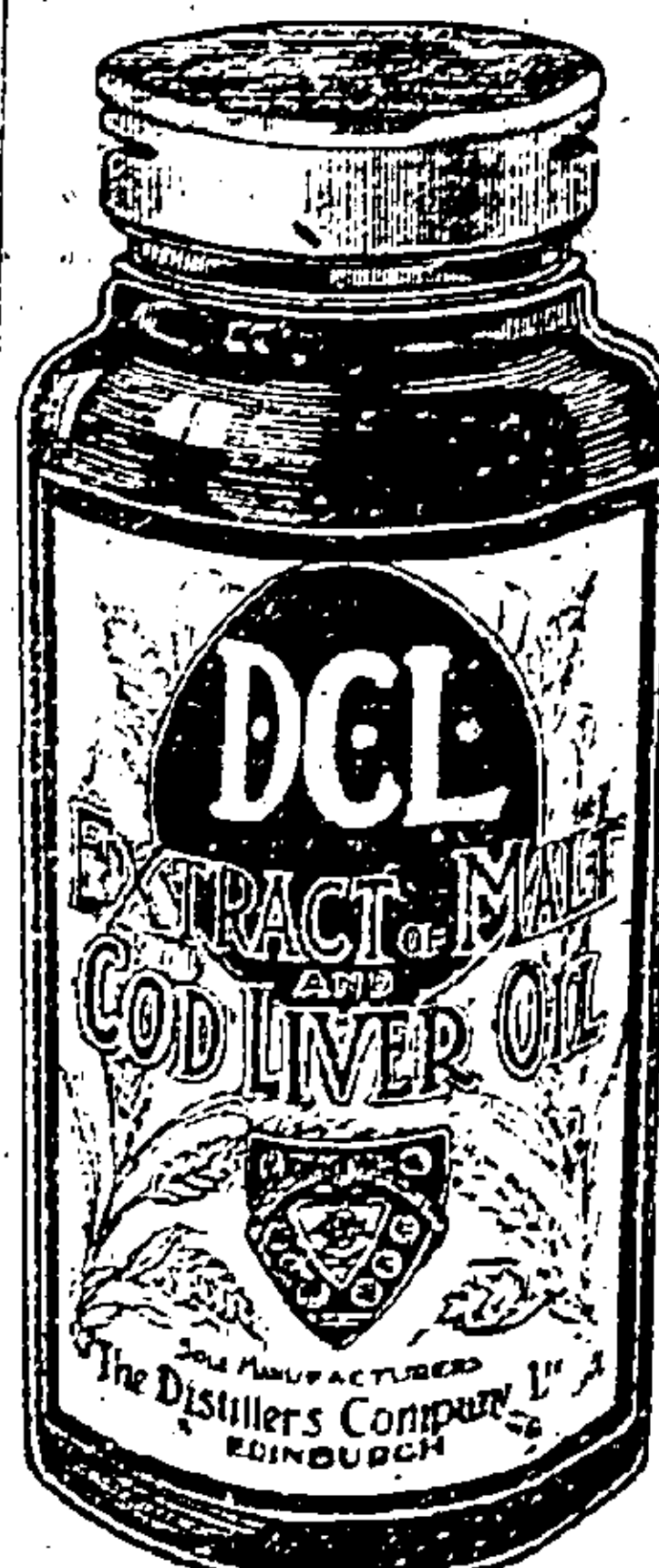
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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

GERMANY TROOPS MUTINY.

Amsterdam, Aug. 8.—A frontier report to the "Telegraph" confirms the rumours of the mutiny of 300 German troops at Antwerp, who threw down their rifles when ordered to go to the Ypres front. They were quickly overpowered and taken to barracks hand-cuffed.

STOPPING PROFITEERING.

London, Aug. 7.—The Premier has informed the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain that inter-trading between members of the Produce Exchange has been prohibited, thereby stopping profiteering in wholesale markets.

ANOTHER GERMAN EXCUSE.

Madrid, Aug. 8.—In connection with Spanish fishing boat outrage, cable last evening, Senhor Dato has stated that the submarine Commander has explained that it was due to mistaken nationality. The Government is protesting energetically to Berlin. One of the wounded men has died.

ARRESTED
IMPERIALISTS.A Preliminary Hearing
at Peking.

Preliminary hearings of the restoration case in which Chang Chen-fang, former Secretary of State for Finance, Lei Ching-chang, former Secretary of State for War, and Feng Teh-ling, former Commander of the 28th Division in Fengtien were charged with having committed acts of sedition, were held on July 30. Chang Chen-fang, being a civil official, will be tried by the Supreme Court, where he is being kept, whilst the other two Imperialists will be tried by a Martial Court to be instituted by order of the Ministry of War after the preliminary hearings have been completed.

The proceedings at the preliminary hearings are kept secret, even members of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of War are not allowed to read them in view of the seriousness of the case and of the fact that numerous influential friends of the criminals are doing their level best to rescue them. It is feared that Chang, Lei and Ling will hardly be able to escape the punishment which usually is meted out to the persons guilty of the charge of sedition.

Many telegrams in code have been discovered on the person of Feng Teh-ling, but the procurators have been unable to decipher them. Feng, after having had a hearty laugh, said that there were thirty-nine kinds of secret codes used by his accomplices in the transmission of messages in connection with the restoration plot, but he refused to enlighten the judicial officials on these secret codes saying that some of his secretaries had taken them away. Recently a search was made in the residence of Liang Tun-yen and Chang Chen-fang in an effort to secure these secret codes, which would help a great deal in procuring evidence against the Imperialists. The search was rewarded with little success, and more searches have been planned and will be executed in the near future.

During the preliminary trial of Chang Chen-fang, some interesting facts came to light, which, however, did not have an actual bearing upon the case. As he was a civil official, it was decided to send him to the Supreme Court after his arrest. Consequently he was sent in a motor-car to the Ministry of Justice for safe keeping but upon his arrival under escort, neither the Minister nor the Vice-Minister was there to receive him.

Finally a secretary came out and told the officers who escorted the car that as he was only a secretary, he could not take the responsibility for receiving the culprit. While waiting in the car, Chang was furious, and said "Why do you bring me here in the heat to wait for hours? Indeed, I cannot bear it."

Lei, Chang and Feng, are all great opium-smokers. Both Lei and Feng, who are now kept in the Ministry of War, are allowed to use the drug, but Chang is not allowed to do so in the Supreme Court, notwithstanding his strong complaints.

Misfortunes never come singly. Whilst Chang is spending a

miserable time within the prison walls, one of his trusted friends, who had been the manager of his estate for years, has robbed him of practically all his ill-gotten wealth. The following story relating how much confidence Chang had in his manager and how the latter appropriated Chang's property to himself, may be read with interest.

Being a favourite of Chang Chen-fang, Huang Sheng-gen was at once appointed Vice-President of the Board of Revenue when the restoration took place. In the Tsing regime, Huang purchased the rank of a petty official, which was substantiated through the influence of Chang Chen-fang, and later on he purchased a higher rank of prefect. As a cousin of President Yuan Shih-kai, Chang Chen-fang was appointed Tath of Hoonan. Huang at once proceeded to Hoonan, but he could not be appointed a high official openly, because Yuan was very much against him because of his corruption and squeezes. One of the advisers suggested to Chang that he should never mention the name of Huang in any dispatch for fear of arousing the anger of the President. However, Chang had great confidence in Huang and had entrusted to him all his private affairs. His private funds of more than \$4,000,000 and the bonds of his shares in various companies have all been placed under the management of Huang, and even Chang's wife and children have not been allowed to know all the secrets of the monetary transaction.

Before Huang was appointed Vice-President, he had an interview with Chang Huan, informing the latter personally that he could raise a loan of \$5,000,000 from a certain bank. After the failure of the restoration plot, Chang's wife and adopted son, an idiot, fled to Hoonan to request the sons of the late Yuan Shih-kai to intercede for Chang, and the 4th son of Yuan actually went with them to Panton to see General Ni Shih-chung.

When pointed out that it would be impossible to interfere with the judicial affairs, Chang's son said "I tried several times to persuade my father not to take part in the restoration plot, but he refused to listen to me. I can't help; let Heaven and his own fortune do the rest." He returned at once to Peking and when he had an interview with his father, he asked him about his property and deposits in the banks. Chang was very angry and said "As to the property and money, Mr. Huang knows how to dispose of them. You only care for my property and not my life, which is in imminent danger," without knowing that Huang had already run away with his money and property and everything upon which he could lay hand.—Peking Daily News.

Alice Memorial Hospital. The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Funds of the Hospitals:—Liang Yan Po, \$100; Lo Cho Shan, \$100; Ho Mun Shung, \$50; Wong Ja Nang, \$25; Tang Chi Ngong, \$25; Ye Yin Pak, \$25; Chow U. Ting, \$25; Li Yan Chan, \$25; French Bank Comptroller, \$25.

WELSH TROOPS AT
MESSINES.

Record of Gallant Work.

War Correspondents' Headquarters, June 21.—No troops have done sterling work with less fuss and notoriety than the Welshmen.

During last summer, before the Battle of the Somme, the bulk of the Welsh troops performed long and tiring service, holding, with obstinate courage, one of the most difficult parts of the line. When called to take part in the capture of the Albert-Bapaume Ridge, they showed the utmost staunchness, combined with great dash, in clearing the greater part of Mametz Wood, which was expected to be one of the most formidable obstacles to our advance in the whole of the Somme area. Since then they have again been at the old hammer-and-tongs job of holding the front line, doing work unostentatiously but priceless, repelling raids themselves, often subjected to heavy shelling and fierce local attacks, but always sturdy, vigilant, and competent.

Some of the Welsh troops were engaged in the Battle of Messines and did splendidly. It was a Welsh unit which on the day before the beginning of the battle did one of the most masterly executed and successful raids ever carried through on this front. Immediately after one of our heavy rehearsal bombardments, these Welshmen went over, in plain daylight, in the middle of the afternoon, and cleaned out the enemy trenches with almost incredible completeness and dispatch. They had only 10 casualties of all kinds themselves, and brought back 74 prisoners. It was more nearly like a real picnic than almost any minor operation of this war, and it was so merely because it was so dashing and done.

In the great attack on June 7 the point where the Welshmen went over was what is known as "Nag's Head," owing to the shape of the German front line just there at Hollandscheschuur Farm, before the Grand Bois, north-west of Wytschaete. Here, with some lesser ones, was exploded one of the biggest mines on the whole line. The Welshmen were so keen to get across that, starting the instant the signal was given, the front wave was actually within 50 yards of the mine when it went off, and showers of debris fell all over them. Through the murk and confusion they swept on, without losing direction, streaming round both sides of the mine craters, rejoining on the other side, and pouring on over the enemy's defences. In such cases you cannot go through a mine crater, because for some time after the explosion the fumes would kill you. Many of those who passed round the edges were partially "gassed" and made dizzy and sick, but they went on with the rest, and from then to the end of the day the only complaint that officers have of the men is that they were too keen, and would not wait for our barrage to move on sufficiently.

Certainly they were keen. One unit took 220 prisoners, with total casualties of 164. Another took 80 prisoners, and the whole division to which they belonged had total casualties of 70 less than the number of prisoners they took.

The front line had been pretty well wrecked by the mine, and however many Germans may have been there before very few were left when the attack came, and there was little resistance. The next trenches, however, just in front of the Grand Bois were very strongly held, and many of the prisoners taken by the Welsh came from here, and here they left even more of the enemy dead. Then came the wood itself, which was fortified with innumerable dug-outs and machine-guns in the usual way. This was carried by sheer hard fighting with bomb and bayonet, and there is a picturesque story of a Lewis gunner who charged a machine-gun post, firing his Lewis gun from the hip, and cleaned out the post, killing all eight members of the gun detachment.

On a line to the east of the wood these men rested, while other Welsh troops came through them and carried on the good work, chiefly miners from South Wales, with many from Cardiff itself, and among them not a few well-known football players.

A very formidable obstacle lay ahead in the trenches known as "Obvious Trench" and "Obvious Alley," so called probably because, being just over the brow of the ridge, they were so little obvious that they were quite invisible from below and incapable of being observed. Moreover, they were, as one man told, "just stiff with Boches," and when the Welshmen had passed they were stiffer still, because the Germans were mostly dead. Happily, though practically invisible, except to an aeroplane, the trenches had been mercilessly hammered by our guns, and all the wire out in the marvellous way that it was over practically the whole front of this attack. As part of their plauder the Welshmen here got 12 guns and two heavy trench mortars.

The ruins of a farm building known as North House, just beyond here, was also full of Germans, being a nest of concrete dug-outs and gun shelters, which yielded the Welshmen quite a bunch of prisoners. I have heard the men who did the fighting shriek with laughter in telling how the Germans surrendered, coming skipping with their hands in the air, trying at each step to shoot their hands a little higher. Among the prisoners taken by the Welshmen was one Regimental Commander and another priceless person, who appears to be some sort of a liaison officer, whose spick-and-span appearance and white-gloved hands have been a joy to our men.

The whole of the Welsh performance was gallant and spirited from beginning to end. Nothing stopped them, but they were always thrusting to get ahead, and every object, whether trench, wood, ruined farm, or strong point, was taken before the time allotted to it, and a little quicker than was thought possible.

That evening this division pushed on through Oosttaverne Wood and took the village of Oosttaverne. In the wood there was mixed and savage fighting, and the German casualties were very heavy indeed. Our troops are still finding new machine-guns and such other trifles in this wood. That night the capacity of the Welshmen for digging served them well, and enabled them to get through the heavy shelling which the Germans poured on their positions in subsequent days with few losses. With them it was as with some other parts of the line—namely, that when the much-vaunted German counter-attack was delivered, the infantry never knew it came. They told me that they knew there was a counter-attack on their right, and on their left, but immediately before them the Germans never got near enough to our line to need repelling by the infantry.

A most unpleasant detail of the operation here was that once more we found a lot of German corpses, already packed, as it were, that is, done up in bundles of three for transmission to the rear, doubtless for that utilization factory. The bundles were carefully made up even loose arms and legs being stuffed in to make good weight. Our men buried the gruesome packages, and as our attack, with heavy shelling of the preceding days, had seemingly delayed transmission for some days, it was they told me a horrid job.

As for the Welshmen themselves, I can testify that they are in the best of health and spirits. They have borne in proportion to their numbers, as good a part as any in the cleanest and completest victory we have won, and they do not believe that there are Germans enough in Germany to stand against them in a good straight fight.—Times Correspondent.

Swiss Tobacco Tax.

The Swiss National Council has adopted a Bill for the imposition of a tax on tobacco, the proceeds from which will serve to cover partially the interest on the mobilization debt.

CONDEMNATION OF HERR
HOFFMANN.

Dangers of Secret Diplomacy.

Berne, June 21.—The publication of Herr Hoffmann's message to Grimm and the leading article in the *Times* filled Switzerland with an intense feeling of alarm, which, as the facts have become more fully known, has given place to an equally intense feeling of indignation and shame.

The alarm was due to fear lest Switzerland's position in regard to supplies, already a matter of painful negotiations, should be imperilled; the indignation and shame were due to the discovery that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of this essentially democratic country, who had always professed to maintain Swiss neutrality at all costs, had been proved guilty of committing, of his own initiative and unknown to his colleagues, an obviously unneutral act of "secret diplomacy."

In the present state of world tension it is not surprising that this event, which is one of the most remarkable and deplorable in Swiss political history, should have produced widespread consternation. Fortunately, Switzerland has risen to the occasion. With Herr Hoffmann's admission of his error and resignation and the unanimous public repudiation of his action, the country seems to have settled the affair for itself.

With one or two unimportant exceptions, the entire Press unsparringly condemns Herr Hoffmann's incredible blunder. The best that can be said for him is the *Nachrichten's* suggestion that he was bounced into it by Grimm's request for information, and suffered from excess of zeal. Admission of his sincerity is almost as completely unanimous as was recognition of the necessity for his immediate departure from public life. It appears, indeed, that he did not await a public outcry before tendering his resignation.

The true explanation of the whole matter seems at present to be that Herr Hoffmann, who was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1914 and a man of great energy and self-will, had grown accustomed to think he could do everything himself without consulting his colleagues. Like many other patriotic Swiss, he was impressed by the injury to Swiss interests involved by the continuance of the war, and appears not to have realized the harm his rash act, however well-intentioned, would do to Switzerland in the eyes of the world. The impropriety of his proceeding thus without saying a word to his colleagues on the Federal Council is universally recognised and needs no comment.

Good may come out of evil. So greatly moved is the country by the latest disclosure that German influence will receive a serious set-back. At the same time, the ignominious expulsion of Grimm from Russia will teach outsiders the danger of playing Germany's game.

Meanwhile, at Geneva a popular meeting of several thousand persons passed a resolution on Tuesday evening calling upon the Federal Assembly to inquire into the whole affair and to punish Herr Hoffmann. After the meeting a crowd of youths attacked the German Consulate, smashed its windows, and tore down the coat of arms. The demonstration was with difficulty suppressed by the police. It broke out again towards midnight, with the object of attacking the Turkish and Austro-Hungarian Consulates. Many windows were broken, and finally the gendarmes, who had been endeavouring, by the aid of taxis, to be in two places at once, replied to a shower of stones with several blank shots, when the proceedings terminated. Eighteen arrests were made.

June 22.—M. Gustave Ador, the well-known President of the Committee of the International Red Cross, has consented, at the age of 72, to stand for the seat in the Federal Council left vacant by Herr Hoffmann's resignation.

The candidature of this universally respected Genevese member of the National Council has been demanded and is warmly acclaimed by all parties, and his

election next week will probably be unanimous. It is at present not known whether he or President Schulthess will take over the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The election of this eminent French-Swiss is not only required by Swiss internal political feeling—the Federal Council will now consist of four German-Swiss and three non-German—but will harmonise with the general desire of the country to set itself right in the eyes of the world.

The incident from a purely international point of view has therefore the appearance of being closed. But obviously it is anything but closed from the Swiss point of view, and a number of highly serious questions will have to be raised and investigated when the Federal Assembly meets on Tuesday.

Meanwhile it is stated that the Russian Government has forbidden the use of cipher in communications between the Swiss Legation and Berne—a sufficient unpleasant thing to happen any country.

It is not surprising that the non-Socialist Swiss should be especially shocked that the Minister for Foreign Affairs should have engaged in this deplorable correspondence with a man of Herr Grimm's political antecedents and sympathies. But this, like many other of the painful features of the affair, is essentially of Swiss interest, and it only remains for Switzerland to deal with them in an appropriate manner.

GENERAL NEWS.

Belgian Militia. Belgians born between July 1 and December 31, 1893, were called upon to enrol for the Militia before June 1, the entry into service being fixed for July 1.

A Graceful Compliment. The Canadian newspapers tell of a touching little incident occurring on the occasion of Marshal Joffre's visit to Montreal. Bishop Bruchesi (Roman Catholic), when introduced to the hero of the Marne, said: "It is usually the custom for soldiers to kiss the hand of a prelate. Today, however, it is proper that the prelate should kiss the hand of a great soldier," and he suited the action to the word.

TO-DAY'S NEW ADVERTISEMENT.

BAND NOTICE NIGHT.

At the North Point Hotel (late Belle View) on SATURDAY NIGHT August 11th, from 5.30 P. M. until midnight.

also

At this Hotel on Saturday night, August 11th, at 9.15 P. M., will appear

TOM KEIG

THE ROPE KING.

AN EASTERN WIZARD

This marvellous illusionist has baffled and defeated the world with his wonderful and seemingly impossible feats. He has challenged all comers to compete with or expose him in the following illusions:—The Coffin, The Trunk, The Manacle, and Rope Tricks etc., etc.

COME AND SEE THE WORLD'S MARVELS.

All the equipment used in these feats was manufactured by well-known European and Chinese firms in Hongkong, and is open to Public inspection at any time.

I, Tom Keig, challenge the World in the several feats, The Coffin, Trunk, Ropes, Manacles, Straps, Belts, Body Belt, etc. I defy any Human Being drawing Breath to accuse me, that I fail to extricate myself. This is a Genuine Challenge and I Bar Nobody, Especially Sailors, Police, Military Etc.

W. H. ELLERMAN,

Manager.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Chinese Cotton.
Messrs. E. Spaut & Co.'s Cotton market report, dated August 2 states:—During the past week there has been no decided change in the fundamental conditions of the market and fluctuations were due principally to local conditions. Prices are slightly easier, due principally to poor demand as spinners generally are adopting a waiting policy pending decided news re the development of the new crop situation. Tone of the market—Steady.

Cotton.
The Manchester correspondent of the *Economist* wrote on June 8:—Rather remarkable developments have occurred in connection with the raw cotton situation during the past week. Late last Friday the United States Government published its first condition report relating to the new crop. The figure was given as 69.5 per cent., against 77.5 per cent. last year, and a ten-year average of 79.1 per cent. The statement was worse than expected and prices of the article have advanced rather rapidly, the quotation in Liverpool last Thursday for middling qualities on the spot being 15 5/8 against 14.533 on May 31. Lancashire spinners are faced with a very serious problem. There is still nearly two months of the current season to run, and the stock in Liverpool is very low and being steadily reduced. Users are meeting with considerable difficulty in securing supplies, and owing to the small amount of the article offering prices are easily pushed up when spinners enter the market. The new crop in the United States has undoubtedly made a poor start, and unless a distinct improvement in the conditions shows itself during the next few months the available supply during the coming year will be much less than the estimated requirements of users, throughout the world. In the circumstances, there is no anticipation of any immediate fall in values, and bullish sentiment is prevalent in all quarters.

Irrigation in India.
When the British Government became responsible for the administration of India it found a few large irrigation works in indifferent operation, and a large number of wells and tanks, the former chiefly in southern India. Sir Arthur Cotton dammed the rivers of the Madras Presidency and brought immense fertility to their deltas. In Northern India Sir Probyn Cantley constructed the Ganges Canal, which taking off from the river at Hardwar remains one of the boldest irrigation works in the world. Then came the wonderful Chenab Canal, and the Periyar work, in southern India, where a river is turned back from its watershed to water the arid tracts on the reverse slopes. A certain number of protective works were constructed in the Bombay Presidency, but as they resulted in considerable loss irrigation earned a bad name in western India. Thus progress was considerable, but it was spasmodic. In order to substitute an ordered policy for these erratic measures Lord Curzon appointed in 1901 a Commission to make a detailed survey of the whole position and to present a report. This Commission found that out of an area of 226 million acres ordinarily under crop, 44 million acres, or 19 1/2 per cent, were ordinarily irrigated. Of this area 42 per cent. was watered by State works and the balance from private works, of which rather more than one half was from wells. At this time the capital outlay on the State works was Rs. 39.83 lakhs involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 159 lakhs in interest, producing a gross revenue of Rs. 366 lakhs and a net revenue of Rs. 207 lakhs. The Commission recommended a programme of new major work costing Rs. 44 crores, which would result in increasing the irrigated area by 8,50,000 acres and that the execution of this programme would cost the State Rs. 74 lakhs a year through the excess of interest charges over revenue. As against this it calculated that the annual cost of famine would be reduced by Rs. 81 lakhs, leaving a balance of Rs. 43 lakhs, which might be reckoned as the annual cost of protection against famine.

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

"The Black Pall of the Parliament Act."

In the House of Lords recently, Lord Barnham (U) asked the Government when a statement would be made in that House as to the setting up of and terms of reference to the Conference which is to be appointed to consider and report upon the reconstitution and reconstruction of that House. He said some statement of this kind was much overdue. It was a matter of supreme moment from the national and Imperial point of view. If any Conference were set up he hoped it would be animated by the same spirit that pervaded the Speaker's Conference. The House of Lords was existing under the black pall of the Parliament Act. They were stamped with a badge of inferiority to every other Second Chamber in the world. There was a mark of futility about all their proceedings. He thought the House of Lords had an important part to play in the reconstruction problems that would come before Parliament in the next ten years.

Earl Curzon (Lord President of the Council), speaking for the Government, said he was the last person to under-rate the extreme importance of the matter. The pledge of Mr. Asquith given at the time of the passing of the Parliament Act, that it ought either to be accompanied or followed at an early date by a measure of reconstitution of the House of Lords, still stood unredemmed. It was described by the Minister who gave it in that House as a debt of honour, and it was undoubtedly an obligation the weight of which was felt by any Government that was in power. The case for the fulfilment of that pledge had become much stronger by the events of the past few weeks. Parliament was now being invited to give its assent to a great measure which would reconstitute the electorate of the country on a far wider basis. It must be obvious that when both Houses were asked to assent to the proper co-ordination of the Lower Chamber with the Upper the question of the composition and constitutional powers of the Upper Chamber emerged as a factor of importance. It was in that spirit that Mr. Lord made his pronouncement in the House of Commons. He owed the House some apology for not having anticipated that statement; he waited until it was certain that the progress of the Representation of the People Bill made it clear that the Government would be able to proceed with the proposal now in question. It was obvious that the Government would not have been wise in inviting the House to agree to the setting up of such a Conference as was now proposed if they were not certain that the Representation of the People Bill would pass the House of Commons in such a form as would render it fair and reasonable for the Government to ask the House to assent to law. That prospect seemed assured, and accordingly the Government would be able to proceed without further delay to set up the Conference to which the question related. The strain upon public men was so great that it would not be an easy matter. The Government would proceed with as much promptitude as they could, and when their proposals were further advanced the House would be entitled to a full statement. As to the composition of the suggested Conference, they hoped to proceed, broadly speaking, very much on the lines of the successful Speaker's Conference. It would be unfair for him to attempt to state what would be the exact composition of the Conference, but it was obvious that in a matter affecting that House they were entitled to a larger representation than on the Speaker's Conference. As to the functions of the Conference, it would undoubtedly be asked to consider the question of the future powers of that House apart from its reconstitution. It would be useless merely to substitute one set of persons for another unless the Conference also considered the much more important and

OUR CIVIL LIBERTY.

Mr. Runciman on Freedom of Press and Speech.

Mr. Walter Runciman, M.P., late President of the Board of Trade, presided at Bradford recently at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire District Branch of the National Union of Liberal Clubs.

In moving the adoption of the report Mr. Runciman referred to Mr. Asquith, whom he described as the greatest living Yorkshireman. Mr. Asquith had a reputation which went beyond these shores, and what the Allies owed to him could never be fully told, and he could assure them that Mr. Asquith would be the last person to tell it. The work which he (Mr. Runciman) and his colleagues did—good, bad, or indifferent—might well be left for criticism until after the war was over; but if they were attacked they were quite ready to defend themselves.

The war had brought with it, Mr. Runciman went on, not only pain and suffering, but the abrogation of liberties which we enjoyed in times of peace. There was no such thing as the freedom of the Press at the present time, though that freedom was the very basis of our political liberty. We had been content to see our newspapers cut down not only in military and naval affairs, but in civil affairs, to a mere recital of what was happening in various parts of our own country as the Executive thought fit. Freedom of speech was by no means the thing it was before the war. We tolerated also the restriction of the freedom of the person in order that mischief might be avoided, "but," he added, "let it be clearly understood that we as Liberals are not prepared to see our rights of civil liberty entirely destroyed even in times of war, and immediately the war is over we shall insist on the fullest degree of civil liberty being restored to exactly where it was." (Cheers.)

Mr. Runciman then dealt with the vital question of their powers. He was next asked whether the Conference would start as a basis for reconstruction with the report of Lord Rosebery's Committee. That idea had not entered the heads of the Government, but no doubt that would come under the notice of the Conference as well as Lord Lansdowne's resolutions. He imagined that the reference to the Conference would be of a general description. Nothing would be more unwise than to tie down the Conference to the consideration of any particular topics, or to limit the scope of its duties and powers. It was obvious the task of the Conference would be one of the greatest complexity and difficulty. They had in the proceedings of the Speaker's Conference a good omen for the success of the new Conference, and when it started on its work he hoped it would receive the sympathy and support of which it stood in need from both sides of the House.

The Marquis of Crewe (L) said the proposals now before the House of Commons constituted a tremendous revolution, but the anxiety of their general acceptance was good. He cordially hoped that equal success would attend the Conference for the reconstitution of that House. He agreed that it would be futile to attempt to alter its constitution without taking into consideration its relation to the other House and to the country.

The Earl of Selborne (U) hoped the House would insist on having an opportunity of discussing the terms of reference before they were finally given.

The Marquis of Lansdowne (U) thought that even if there had been no Speaker's Conference the question of the powers of the House of Lords would have called urgently for reconsideration. They could not be expected to sit down and tolerate for an indefinite time an arrangement which placed them in a position inferior to that of any other Second Chamber in any civilised community, and an arrangement which, according to the showing of those responsible for it, was intended to be only a temporary and stop-gap arrangement.

WAR-CANCELLED CONTRACT.

Important Judgment of the Law Lords.

A bench of seven Law Lords on June 21 delivered judgment in the House of Lords in the case of Tennants (Lancashire), Old Hill Street, Liverpool, v. C. S. Wilson and Co., Limited, raising an important commercial point.

Messrs. Wilson entered into a contract with the appellants for a supply of magnesium chloride, a substance which they used in the manufacture of a product of theirs called Litosil, an article used mainly as a substitute for wooden decks on board ships. On the outbreak of war the appellants purported to cancel the contract as the supplies from Germany ceased, but intimidated their willingness to supply the remainder of the magnesium chloride at an increased price of 10s. per ton, their contention being that the war caused a shortage in the supply which justified them in suspending deliveries under the contract.

Against this Messrs. Wilson protested on the ground that there was no shortage so far as the appellants were concerned, since they had more than sufficient to fulfil the contract, but chose instead to sell it at an enhanced price to other persons with whom they had no contracts. Their protests being of no avail, they brought an action claiming damages for breach of contract, but Mr. Justice Lloyd decided in favour of the appellants, holding that they were entitled to suspend deliveries by reason of the shortage produced by the war consequent on the cessation of the German supplies.

This decision, however, was upset in the Court of Appeal, where it was held that the appellants were liable for breach of contract in such amount of damages as might be found due on inquiry by an official referee. The arguments were heard at the commencement of March by the Lord Chancellor and Lords Laneham, Halsbury, Danes, Atkinson, Shaw and Wrenbury, when judgment was reserved.

The judgment of the Court of Appeal was reversed on June 21, and that of Mr. Justice Lloyd restored, the Lord Chancellor dissenting.

Shipping Sales.

The steel screw steamer *St. Tudwal*, owned by Messrs. Duncan and Leith, Aberdeen, has been sold about £9,000. The steel screw for steamer *Paragon*, owned by Messrs. J. Weatherill and Sons, Dublin, has been sold to English buyers. A steel screw steamer of 7,000 tons d.w. capacity, now building at Sunderland, and nearly ready for delivery, has been sold for the sum of £160,000. She will be fitted with triple expansion engines. The steel and iron screw steamer *Kingsbridge* Packet, 128 tons gross register, owned by Mr. W. H. Prowse, Kingsbridge, has been sold for the sum of £23,000.

YALE
Locks and Hardware
MUSTARD & CO.
SOLE AGENTS.

HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S.—SELLERS; SA.—SALES; B.—BUYERS; N.—NOMINAL.

OFFICIAL PRICES.

BANKS.
H.K. & S. Banks, Ltd. \$650
MARINE INSURANCES.
Cantons n. \$335
North China n. \$140
Unions s. \$825
Yangtszes b. ex 73 \$135

FIRE INSURANCES.
China Fires n. \$140
H.K. Fires b. \$365

SHIPPING.
Douglases n. \$85
Steamboats n. \$18
Indos (Del.) n. \$101 1/2
Indos (Pref.) s. \$40
Shells b. 120/-
Ferries n. \$29

REFINERIES.
Sugars n. \$36
Malabons b. \$20

MINING.
Kailans b. \$46
Langkats b. & sa. \$15
Raubs b. \$2.60
Tronohs n. 25/-
Urals n. 32/-

DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, & C.
H.K. Wharves b. & sa. \$76
Kowloon Docks n. \$117
Shai Docks b. \$178

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.
Centrals s. \$35
H.K. Hotels b. \$39
Land Invest. n. \$91
H'phrys Est. b. & sa. \$6.25
K'loon Lands n. \$38
Shai Lands sa. \$1.80
West Points b. \$69

COTTON MILLS.
Ewos n. \$162 1/2
Kung Yiks b. \$15 1/2
Shai Cottons b. \$134
Yangtzepeos n. \$1.575

MISCELLANEOUS.
Borneos n. \$7
China Light & P. n. \$1.50
Providents n. \$7.90
Dairy Farms n. \$28
Green Islands sa. \$7.85
H.K. Electric b. \$48
H.K. Ice Co. n. \$151
Ropes n. \$27 1/2
Steel Foundries b. \$10
Trams, Low Level n. \$9.10
Trams, Peak, old n. \$13
Trams, Peak, new n. \$13.40
Laundries b. \$13
U-Waterboats n. \$6
Watsons b. \$6.50
Wm. Powells s. \$29
Morning Posts n. \$29

EXCHANGE.
SELLING.
T/T 2/8 1/2
Demand 2/8 3/4
30 d/s 2/8 5/16
60 d/s 2/8 7/16
4 m/s 2/8 1/2
T/T Shanghai Nom.
T/T Singapore 114
T/T Japan 124 1/2
T/T India Nom.
Demand, India Nom.
T/T San Francisco & New York 63 1/4
T/T Java 152 1/2
T/T Marks Nom.
T/T France 370 1/2
Demand, Paris 371

BUYING.
4 m/s. L/O 2/9
4 m/s. D/O 2/9 1/4
6 m/s. L/O 2/9 1/4
30 d/s. Sydney & Melbourne 2/9 1/4
30 d/s. San Francisco & New York 65
4 m/s. Marks Nom.
4 m/s. France 383 1/2
6 m/s. France 388 1/2
Demand, Germany 63 1/2
Demand, New York 63 1/2
T/T Bombay Nom.
Demand, Bombay Nom.
T/T Calcutta 127 1/2
Demand, Calcutta Nom.
Demand, Manila 127 1/2
Demand, Singapore 114
On Haiphong 4 1/2% prem.
On Saigon 4 1/2% prem.
On Bangkok 5 1/2%
Sovereign 7/6 Nom.
Gold Leaf, per oz. 43.20
Bar Silver, per oz. 41 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.
DISCOUNT PER \$100:
Chinese, 20 cts. pieces 2 1/2% dit.
Chinese, 10 " " 2 1/2% dit.
Hongkong 20 cts. pieces par.
Hongkong 10 " "

BANKS.

BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 Months 3% per annum.
For 6 Months 4% per annum.
For 12 Months 4 1/2% per annum

LOOK POON SHAN, Chief Manager.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

Capital (fully paid up) Fr. 45,000,000
President: Andre Berthelot
General Manager: A. J. Pernotte.

HEAD OFFICE: 74 Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS
BRANCHES IN PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN and HONGKONG.

BANKERS.
In FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.
In LONDON: London County & Westminster Bank Ltd.
In ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.
Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application. Every description of Banking and exchange business transacted.

M. ROUET DE JOURNEL, Manager.
HONGKONG BRANCH: 5, Queen's Building, Tel. No. 2352
Hongkong, 14th May, 1917.

NOTICES.

NOTICE.
PEAK TRAMWAY CO. LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.
12.00 A.M. to 12.00 A.M. Every 15 Mins.
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NIGHT CABLE.
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SUNDAYS.
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SATURDAYS.
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12.00 A.M. to 12.00 A.M. Every 15 Mins.

SPECIAL CASE.
By Arrangement at the Company's Office.
Alexandra Buildings.
Des Voeux Road.

"Season and punch tickets available for all persons already full running at the time stated in the Company's time tables, but not for special cases, and be obtained on application at the Company's Office, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 164

